

Introduction:

- You have heard the expression, "I have some good news for you and I have some bad news."

I. And The Good News Is...**A. What is Good News?**

1. Gr. *euangelion* meaning good news, good announcement, good declaration.
2. It is not just an announcement but it most often had to do with the announcement of victory regarding a war, and the messenger sees himself as one who brings victory.
 - a) Is. 61 and Luke 4:18. *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,"* (Luke 4:18, NLT)
 - b) Luke 3:18 John the Baptist came preaching Good news.
 - c) Rom 1:1 Paul too was chosen by God to preach Good News.
 - d) We are called to preach good news. Romans 10:15 *"And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"*" (Romans 10:15, NLT)

B. The Good News has been talked about for a long time. "God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures." (Romans 1:2, NLT) The good news was of the coming:

1. Messiah - Jesus/Deliverer
2. Redeemer - one who buys back. Jesus did not buy us back from the devil. He purchased our salvation by satisfying the justice of God with His own blood.
3. Is 53 and following speaks of the Suffering Servant. We find this theme all through the OT. And so much of the OT is shadow of things to come, symbolic of things to come.

C. "The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line," (Romans 1:3, NLT) The Good News is about God's Son.

1. Jesus is the focus of Good News to all who believe! He is the message...God loves us. He is the sacrifice...His life in exchange for mine. He carried my punishment...so I could go free. He carried my sickness ... so I could walk in health. He became the curse...so I could experience the blessing! The Good News is about the Son of God!
2. *"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile."* (Romans 1:16, NLT) Acts 9:20 Paul immediately began preaching about Jesus...He is the Son of God!

3. What about Jesus? To the Romans
 - a) *"He was born into King David's family line*
 - b) *He was shown to be the Son of God*
 - c) *He was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
 - d) *He is Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans 1:3-4, NLT)
 4. What about Jesus? To the Corinthians
 - a) *"Let me now remind you, ... of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you..." "I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said."* (1 Corinthians 15:1-4, NLT)
 - b) The birth, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus are absolutely essential to the gospel! If Jesus atoning death and literal resurrection are not affirmed, then gospel not been preached.
- D. The Gospel is the power of God to salvation.
1. *"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. **It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.**"* (Romans 1:16, NLT)
 2. When the Gospel is preached, the power of the living God is released (in honor of what Jesus has done). The Holy Spirit bears witness to Jesus.
 - a) Have you heard the phrase, "the gospel of the kingdom?" What does that mean? A kingdom is the dominion of a king. It is His realm of rulership. The gospel of the kingdom is the good news that God has come down among men; that God is asserting His rulership, His authority, in the earth for benefit of mankind.
 - b) Jesus has taken on Himself our form (John 1:14). He has mercifully stepped into humanity.
 - c) John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Christ, his message was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
 - d) What does the rule of God look like? Matthew 9:35 links it with healing and deliverance. "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." The gospel is good news because it declares the rule of God that supersedes oppressive rule of the devil.
 3. Power unto salvation
 - a) Salvation, *soteria*, the rescue, healing, deliverance, safety and wellbeing of everyone who believes.

b) If you are dead/dying...life is good news. If you are sick...healing is good news. If you are oppressed...deliverance is good news. This leads me to my next point:

II. What's The Bad News?

- A. God's anger is being against those who suppress the truth. Romans 1:18
 - 1. God gives these folks over to themselves Romans 1:24
 - 2. *"Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done."* (Romans 1:28, NLT)
- B. Chapter 2 talks of God's judgment against sin.
- C. The Summary: *"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."* (Romans 3:23, NLT) This really put humanity in a very bad predicament!
 - 1. We all were there...including me.
 - 2. But Christians...ones who really believe have discovered something!

III. The Conclusion!

- A. God loves us! That is why all learn John 3:16. God does not want to judge us. God does not want to punish us. God does now want us separated from Him.
- B. Look at what follows the Romans 3:23 (which announced that we are all sinners). *"Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins."* (Romans 3:24, NLT) Some NLT read "Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares we are righteous...through Jesus (The Good News)!"
- C. ***"This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life.'"*** (Romans 1:17, NLT)
 - 1. Romans 1:16 Saving everyone who believes.
 - 2. John 3:16 that who ever believes will be saved.
 - 3. Romans 3:25 People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. NLT

Conclusion:

- The Good New is you do not have to die in your sin.
- You do not have to die separated from God.
- You just have to choose to believe!